

**AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL LETTER**Docket No.
FIS920030200US1Application No.
10/604,594Filing Date
08/01/03Examiner
Khiem D. NguyenArt Unit
2823Applicant(s): **Hiroyuki Akatsu et al.**Invention: **METHOD AND STRUCTURE FOR IMPROVED TRENCH PROCESSING****TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS**

Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application.

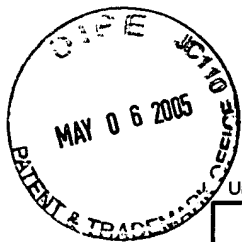
The fee has been calculated and is transmitted as shown below.

CLAIMS AS AMENDED					
	Claims Remaining After Amendment	Highest Number Previously Paid	Number Extra Claims Present	Rate	
Total Claims	10	20	0		
Independent Claims	1	- 3	0		
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/>					
Other fee (please specify):					
TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT:					

☒ Large Entity☐ Small Entity☒ No additional fee is required for this amendment.☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____
A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.☐ A check in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the filing fee is enclosed.☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. **09-0458**
as described below. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.☒ Credit any overpayment.☒ Charge any additional filing or application processing fees required under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17.
Daryl K. Neff
Attorney Reg. No.: 38,253Dated: May 3, 2005

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS RCE Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: May 3, 2005 Signature: (Daryl K. Neff)



1FW/RCE
2823

PTO/SB/30 (09-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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Request For Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal Address to: MS RCE Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450	Application Number	10/604,594
	Filing Date	08/01/2003
	First Named Inventor	Hiroyuki Akatsu
	Art Unit	2823
	Examiner Name	Khiem D. Nguyen
	Attorney Docket No.	FIS920030200US1

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application.

Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application.

1. **Submission required under 37 CFR 1.114** Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s).

a. ☐ Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.

i. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____

ii. ☐ Other _____

b. ☒ Enclosed

i. ☒ Amendment/Reply

iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)

ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)

iv. ☐ Other _____

2. **Miscellaneous**

a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i) required)

b. ☐ Other _____

3. **Fees** The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. **09-0458**

i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e)

ii. ☐ Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17)

iii. ☐ Other _____

b. ☐ Check in the amount of \$ _____ enclosed

c. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED			
Name (Print/Type)	Daryl K. Neff	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	38,253
Signature		Date	May 3, 2005

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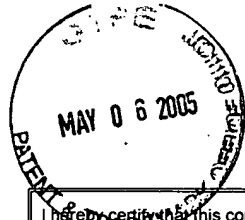
Dated: May 3, 2005

Signature: (Daryl K. Neff)

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Name of Depositor:

Daryl K. Neff

Signature

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Hiroyuki Akatsu et al.	Date: May 3, 2005
Serial Number: 10/604,594	Examiner: Khiem D. Nguyen
Filed: August 1, 2003	Group Art Unit: 2823
Title: METHOD AND STRUCTURE FOR IMPROVED TRENCH PROCESSING	H. Daniel Schnurmann IBM Corporation Dept. 18G, B/321, Zip 482 2070 Route 52 Hopewell Junction, NY 12533

**AMENDMENT FILED WITH REQUEST FOR CONTINUED
EXAMINATION UNDER 37 CFR §1.114**

MS RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated February 3, 2005, Applicants submit the following amendments and remarks for the Examiner's consideration.